



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**SARASOTA MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN
CONSPIRACY TO KILL INFORMANT AND SPECIAL AGENT**

Tampa, FL - United States District Court Judge James D. Whittemore, Jr. last evening sentenced WISSAM TAYSIR HAMMOUD of Sarasota, Florida, to a total sentence of 21 years and six months' imprisonment, to be followed by a term of five years of supervised release. HAMMOUD pled guilty on August 26, 2005 to a variety of charges relating to his attempts to conspire with others to retaliate against a confidential informant and an ATF agent.

According to the indictment, plea agreement and testimony in court, HAMMOUD, who had been convicted in federal court in Tampa, Florida in 2001 of federal charges relating to the illegal sale of firearms, was on home detention from that sentence when he began to conspire with others to kill both the informant who testified against him at that trial and the Tampa ATF agent who investigated the case. HAMMOUD, who illegally possessed a large number of firearms while on home detention, provided his co-conspirators with a loaded Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum revolver, to be used in killing that informant and

the ATF special agent, and a home-made silencer. He also directed them on how to carry out the murder and provided them with details as to the location of the informant and the ATF agents.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, the Sarasota Police Department, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.